

LITERARY NOTES

AND CHIT-CHAT.

Thus far, this year, says a writer in "Brains," there have been just two striking pieces of fiction which have created marked discussion in New York literary circles. They are "Dreams," that weird volume of poetic fantasies by Olive Schreiner, and "Jerry," by Sarah Barnwell Elliott, which attracted so much attention during its long serial run in Scribner's Magazine. As both of these books are, first of all, works of great vigor, and as they have won their chief popularity from the fair sex, it is evident that either feminine tastes are changing, or that women do not, as is generally charged, smile only on such novels as reek with rhetorical gush and sickly sentimentalism.

Mrs. Gunter says that her husband, Mr. Archibald Clavering Gunter, who made a fortune on "Mr. Barnes of New York," will shortly publish her masterpiece which will in every way surpass the novel which brought him fame. She is said to be a woman of fine critical judgment, but a man's wife is rarely a competent critic of her husband's productions. We doubt if Mr. Gunter's masterpiece will equal his popular "MR. BARNES OF NEW YORK." It is not the novels upon which novelists put their best work that usually gives them greatest reputation, but rather the production that most surely touches the heart, pleases the fancy, and is out of the usual run. People crave novelty even in novels, paradoxical as the expression sounds. They want a novelist to strike a new vein, and if he fails to do this no matter how intellectual or critical it is destined to fall still born. We shall await Mr. Gunter's masterpiece with interest, but we doubt if it will equal the novel that has brought him fame, his wife to the contrary notwithstanding.

No one will venture to say what it was based on, but for many years there has been a popular superstition among publishers that it was a waste of good paper to print short stories in book-form. Even the magazines were inclined to regard this style of composition, the same as poetry, as mere padding—material with which to patch in the breaks between articles and serials or novelettes. At last the old order of things has changed. To-day, the volume of short stories is the most popular of all books. Furthermore, there are already two successful monthly periodicals which are devoted exclusively to short stories, while a stock company is now forming for the conducting of a third. The great magazines are also in the midst of a brisk rivalry for the attainment of this class of contributions. And, more than a dozen of the strongest and most finished writers of the day, such as Amelie Rives-Chandler, Thomas Nelson Page, Octave Thanet, Bret Harte, Richard Harding Davis, Richard Malcom Johnston, and others, have won their spurs as writers of short stories. The "conservative" publishers, and such old-fogy "publisher's readers" as egged them on, have at last been forced to acknowledge the fact that the short story is an important factor in the American world of letters, after all.

Edward Eggleston was President of the American Copyright League, and he received the first fruits of the law. His latest book THE FAITH Doctor was the first American novel which the law effects.

Fiction is, and ever has been, the most potent instrument of good, and at the same time the most powerful agency of evil. Its influence depends, and always will depend, upon its character. If it is to depict health, it will inspire hope; if it paints only disease, it will promote weakness. In the moral world, health is contagious as well as disease. Fiction may disseminate the spores of aspiration which shall ger-

minate into new achievement; may spread the seed of vice which shall spot the future with a leprous taint; or scatter the germs of languorous depression, an enervating, relaxing, hopeless epidemic of self-depreciation and contempt of humanity as weakening to the soul as "La Grippe" to the body.—ALBION W. TOURGEE.

To the author, musician and actor, one of two things is indispensable—either reputation or notoriety. To supplement the latter with the former is commendable in like measure as the reverse of this process is deplorable; and yet it would seem that McKee Rankin, actor and author, is intent upon applying the unlovely side of this principle. He has announced that with the assistance of a fellow playwright he is about turning into a melodrama the tragic close of Abraham Lincoln's life, and the subsequent death of John Wilkes Booth and the execution of Mrs. Surratt and her associates in crime. That there is enough material in this for a play, or for a score of plays, no one can deny. It would also attract vast herds of sensation-seekers, and would fill the pockets of Mr. Rankin with the coin of the realm. But can he afford to accept financial enrichment at such a moral cost? Nothing laudable can be urged in favor of reducing the hours of the nation's supremest agony to the clap-trap and tinsel of stage display. The subject is nearly as revolting as that of the "Passion Play." Mr. Rankin has many friends, some one of whom should admonish him against devoting the closing tragedy of the war to so grossly material a purpose. Mr. Rankin has found it possible to fairly earn an enviable reputation in the legitimate prosecution of his business, and in this direction probably lies the attainment of whatever laurels he is yet to win. He will gain nothing that he will care to preserve from this seemingly intended tilt after notoriety: or nothing save money—and his are far too considerable talents to be prostituted for a mess of pottage.—LAW VANDERPOOLE in Brains.

The following anecdote is told of Mrs. Gertrude Franklin Atherton, who raised such a tempest in a teapot by her article in the San Francisco Examiner affirming that women are more immodest than men. Ambrose Bierce, whose biting pen would delight in doing up his own mother, were she living, and who really had a fine mind till it became unbalanced by lingering too fondly on the foibles of mankind, is Mrs. Atherton's pet; she is enamoured of him, intellectually, of course. One morning, when breakfasting with him, he said, "Look out, I'm savage. This is one of my days. I hate everything, including man and woman." She, very sweetly: "No particular woman, I trust?" He, even more sweetly: "You are not a particular woman, Mrs. Atherton."

"Brains" is the name of a new and delightful literary publication published semi-monthly at Meadville, Pa. It occupies a broad field and will have all the literary news, spicy editorials, articles from the pens of the ablest living writers. Its first issue is a thing of beauty and a real joy.

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RALEIGH AND GASTON RAILROAD.

In effect Sunday, June 14th, 1891.

TRAINS MOVING NORTH.

No. 34.	No. 38.
Pass. Daily Pass. & Mail.	Daily ex. Sun.
Lv Raleigh..... 5 00 pm	11 25 am
Mill Brook..... 5 15 pm	11 41 am
Wake Forest..... 5 30 pm	12 05 pm
Franklinton..... 6 01 pm	12 26 pm
Kittrell..... 6 19 pm	12 44 pm
Henderson..... 6 36 pm	1 00 pm
Warren Plains 7 14 pm	1 39 pm
Macon..... 7 22 pm	1 46 pm
Ar Weidon..... 8 39 pm	2 45 pm

TRAINS MOVING SOUTH.

No. 41.	No. 45.
Pass. & Mail.	Daily ex. Sun. Daily Pass.
Lv Weidon..... 12 15 pm	6 00 am
Macon..... 1 13 pm	7 06 am
Warren Plains 1 20 pm	7 15 am
Henderson..... 2 22 pm	7 58 am
Kittrell..... 2 39 pm	8 11 am
Franklinton..... 2 56 pm	8 29 am
Wake Forest..... 3 17 pm	8 50 am
Mill Brook..... 3 49 pm	9 15 am
Ar Raleigh..... 8 55 pm	9 30 am

LOUISBURG RAILROAD.

Leaves Lousburg at 7 35 a. m., and 2.00 p. m.

Arrives at Franklinton at 8 10 a. m. and 2.35 p. m.

Leaves Franklinton at 12 30 p. m., and 6.05 p. m.

Arrives at Lousburg at 1.05 a. m. and 6.40 p. m.

JOHN C. WINDER, Gen'l Manager.

L. T. MYERS, Gen'l Supt.

W. M. SMITH, Superintendent.

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In effect Sunday, June 14, 1891.

GOING SOUTH.

No. 41.	No. 5.
Passenger & Mail.	Freight & Passenger
Lv Raleigh..... 4 00 p. m.	5 10 a. m.
Cary..... 4 19 p. m.	5 43 p. m.
Merry Oaks..... 4 54 p. m.	6 37 p. m.
Monroe..... 5 05 p. m.	6 48 p. m.
Sanford..... 5 23 p. m.	7 10 p. m.
Cameron..... 5 54 p. m.	7 40 p. m.
South Plains..... 6 21 p. m.	8 39 p. m.
Aberdeen..... 6 31 p. m.	1 00 p. m.
Ar Hamlet..... 7 29 p. m.	3 30 p. m.
Lv Hamlet..... 12 10 p. m.	
Gibson..... 12 30 p. m.	
Ar Gibson..... 12 50 p. m.	

GOING NORTH.

No. 38.	No. 4.
Passenger & Mail.	Freight & Passenger
Lv Gibson..... 3 10 a. m.	4 00 a. m.
Gibson..... 3 30 a. m.	4 20 a. m.
Ar Hamlet..... 3 50 a. m.	4 40 a. m.
Lv Hamlet..... 4 00 a. m.	4 50 a. m.
Aberdeen..... 4 49 a. m.	5 49 a. m.
South Plains..... 5 16 a. m.	6 16 a. m.
Cameron..... 5 26 a. m.	6 26 a. m.
Sanford..... 5 44 a. m.	6 44 a. m.
Monroe..... 6 10 a. m.	7 10 a. m.
Merry Oaks..... 6 26 a. m.	7 26 a. m.
Cary..... 6 51 a. m.	7 51 a. m.
Raleigh..... 11 20 a. m.	4 42 p. m.

PITTSBORO ROAD.

Leave Pittsboro 9.10 a. m. and 3.00 p. m.

Arrive Monroe 9.55 a. m. and 3.45 p. m.

Leave Monroe 10.25 a. m. and 3.15 p. m.

Arri. Pittsboro 11.10 a. m. and 3.55 p. m.

J. C. WINDER, Gen'l Manager.

L. T. MYERS, Gen'l Supt.

W. M. SMITH, Supt.

CARTHAGE RAILROAD.

Leave Carthage 8.00 a. m. and 1.30 p. m.

Arrive Cameron 8.35 a. m. and 2.15 p. m.

Leave Cameron 9.35 a. m. and 3.00 p. m.

Arri. Carthage 10.10 a. m. and 3.35 p. m.

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SOUTHBOUND.

No. 9.	No. 11.
Daily.	Daily.
Lv. Richmond..... 3 00 pm	*2 55 am
" Burkeville..... 5 11 pm	5 11 am
" Keyville..... 5 33 pm	5 33 am
Ar. Danville..... 8 12 pm	8 09 am
" Greensboro..... 10 20 pm	10 19 am
Lv. Goldsboro..... *2 57 pm	*8 30 pm
Ar. Raleigh..... 4 48 pm	11 50 pm
Lv. Raleigh..... *6 10 pm	*1 30 am
" Durham..... 7 50 pm	3 38 am
Ar. Greensboro..... 10 00 pm	8 00 am
Lv. Winston-Salem..... *8 30 pm	*7 25 am
" Greensboro..... *10 30 pm	*10 28 am
Ar. Salisbury..... 12 20 am	12 02 pm
Ar. Statesville..... *1 52 am	*1 01 pm
" Asheville..... 6 55 am	5 03 pm
" Hot Springs..... 8 56 am	7 00 pm
Lv. Salisbury..... *12 30 am	*12 10 am
Ar. Charlotte..... 2 10 am	1 35 pm
" Spartanburg..... 5 32 am	4 43 pm
" Greenville..... 6 47 am	6 05 pm
" Atlanta..... 1 15 pm	12 30 pm
Lv. Charlotte..... *2 30 am	*1 55 pm
Ar. Columbia..... 6 20 am	5 40 pm
" Augusta..... 10 20 am	9 10 pm

NORTHBOUND.

No. 10.	No. 12.
Daily.	Daily.
Lv. Augusta..... *7 00 pm	*10 45 am
" Columbia..... 11 00 pm	2 00 pm
Ar. Charlotte..... 4 00 am	6 30 pm
Lv. Atlanta..... *7 00 pm	*8 10 am
Ar. Charlotte..... 5 10 am	6 40 pm
" Salisbury..... 6 52 am	8 35 pm
Lv. Hot Springs..... *4 45 pm	*12 28 pm
" Asheville..... 6 25 pm	2 15 pm
Ar. Salisbury..... 11 00 pm	10 40 pm
Lv. Salisbury..... *7 00 am	*8 45 pm
Ar. Greensboro..... 8 44 am	10 30 pm
Ar. Winston-Salem..... *11 38 am	*12 20 am
Lv. Greensboro..... *10 30 am	*12 10 am
Ar. Durham..... 12 33 pm	4 35 am
" Raleigh..... 1 29 pm	7 15 am
Lv. Raleigh..... *1 34 pm	*8 45 am
Ar. Goldsboro..... 3 10 pm	12 20 pm
Lv. Greensboro..... *8 52 am	*10 40 pm
Ar. Danville..... 10 40 am	12 20 pm
" Keyville..... 1 26 pm	4 13 am
" Burkeville..... 2 11 pm	4 55 am
" Richmond..... 4 10 pm	7 00 am

*Daily except Sunday.

*Daily.

BETWEEN

West Point and Richmond.

Leave West Point 7.50 a. m. daily and

8.50 a. m. daily except Sunday and Mon-

day; arrive Richmond 9.15 and 10.40 a.

m. Returning leave Richmond 3.10 p.

m. and 4.45 p. m. daily except Sunday;

arrive West Point 5.00 and 6.00 p. m.

Between Richmond and Raleigh,

via. Keyville.

Leave Richmond 8.00 p. m. daily; leave

Keyville 6.00 p. m.; arrive Oxford 8.03 p.

m.; Henderson 9.15 p. m.; Durham 9.35 p.

m.; Raleigh 10.40 p. m. Returning leave

Raleigh 8.15 a. m. daily, Durham 9.30 a.

m.; Henderson 9.35 a. m.; Oxford 10.55 a.